



Director of
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ISRAEL-LEBANON: Evacuation Proceeding

(Information as of 2300 EDT)

Evacuation of PLO fighters continued yesterday. Syrian forces are scheduled to begin their departure today. []

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Almost 1,300 Palestinians belonging to Syrian-controlled units of the Palestine Liberation Army completed an overland withdrawal to Syria yesterday. Another 400 PLO members left by ship for Syria. About 6,000 PLO members plus 2,100 fighters of the Palestine Liberation Army now have left Beirut. []

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Regular Syrian forces assigned to the Arab Deterrent Force are scheduled to begin leaving today by land for Syria. Some 600 PLO members will depart by ship for Algeria. []

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Palestinians in Syria

PLO chief and Fatah leader Arafat and some of his key aides remain in Beirut, but leaders of all other major Palestinian groups have gone to Syria. Khalil Wazir, Arafat's second in command, arrived there on Saturday. []

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Most Palestinian organizations will probably establish their headquarters in Damascus. []

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[] Arafat has not indicated where Fatah, the largest Palestinian group, will be headquartered. []

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Comment: The presence in Syria of Wazir--who heads Fatah's organization responsible for attacks in Israeli-occupied territories--suggests Fatah intends to have a substantial presence there. []

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Israeli Remarks

According to press sources, yesterday's cabinet meeting focused on reports that the US is considering a new initiative on the Palestinian issue. One account, citing unnamed "government circles," said that if any party tries to introduce changes into the Camp David framework, Israel will no longer consider itself bound by the accords and might annex the West Bank and Gaza.

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Chief of Staff Eytan reportedly said yesterday that Israel will not permit the leftist Lebanese Muslim group Murabitun to remain in West Beirut. He said the Murabitun had been receiving weapons from the PLO.

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Comment: The commentaries on the cabinet meeting clearly reflect government concern about possible changes in US attitudes and are intended to remind Washington that Israel has a variety of options available to counter such moves. Eytan's remarks reflect continuing Israeli concern that Lebanese leftist groups will serve as cover for a clandestine Palestinian presence in Beirut.

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POLAND: Preparations Continue for Demonstrations

Solidarity and the regime stepped up their preparations over the weekend for the demonstrations the union has called for tomorrow.

After nearly two months of silence, Radio Solidarity on Saturday returned to the air and appealed for a large turnout and for police to either disobey orders or behave with moderation. In a second broadcast, Solidarity activists demonstrated their technical expertise and determination by interrupting the national news program briefly.

//The regime continued its efforts to harass organizers by arresting at least 27 for antistate activities and by closing down underground printing presses in several cities. Police forces in the major cities have been strengthened, and at least some regular military units appear to be in an increased state of readiness.//

The regime has also continued its war of words. Premier Jaruzelski yesterday warned that martial law must be respected and that violations will not be tolerated.

//The media also continued to report joint Polish-Soviet military exercises.

Poland's bishops yesterday called on both the regime and Solidarity to celebrate tomorrow in a spirit of calm and urged restraint on those who would resolve the current conflict through violence. The bishops argued that dialogue is the only way to resolve the confrontation.

Comment: The bishops' call for calm is unlikely to have a significant effect. Some potential demonstrators will read some words of encouragement into the message, and others, who have already become convinced that the Church is too conciliatory toward the regime, will ignore it. Regime officials remain adamant that tomorrow demonstrations must be stopped lest they encourage additional opposition activity.

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SAUDI ARABIA: Concern Over Pilgrimage

//Saudi security officials are deeply concerned that Iranian pilgrims will stage disturbances during the pilgrimage season, which officially begins on 18 September.// []

//Ayatollah Khomeini has appointed Musava Khoiniha, a radical young clergyman who was involved in the take-over of the US Embassy, as supervisor of the pilgrims. Khomeini has instructed all Iranian pilgrims--who may number more than 75,000--to obey Khoiniha's directives and stage orderly demonstrations.// []

//The Iranians reportedly will try to coordinate disturbances with dissident Shias living in Saudi Arabia and coming from Bahrain. []

Comment: *//Security in Saudi Arabia will be extremely tight, as it was last year. Saudi officials probably will tolerate limited pro-Iranian demonstrations to avoid unnecessary clashes with religious pilgrims. If there is a serious disturbance, however, the government will use whatever force may be necessary and try to put the onus on Tehran for disturbing the pilgrims.//* []

//Although Khomeini wants to embarrass the Saudis, his instructions to pilgrims suggest he wants to avoid further damage to Iran's international standing.// []

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JAPAN-USSR: Debate on Credits for Sakhalin Project

Officials in Tokyo are debating whether to grant a concessionary \$20 million loan to finance the development stage of the Sakhalin offshore oil and gas project, as the USSR is demanding.

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An article in Japan's leading business daily claims the project can be financed with a resource development loan, which is not subject to the 8.7-percent OECD guideline for credits to the USSR. The 7-percent interest rate being discussed would apply to all subsequent development loans for Sakhalin.

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Comment: The US reaction to the French order that pipeline compressors be shipped to the USSR should strengthen the arguments of those calling for delay. Nevertheless, the debate itself indicates Japan's continuing commitment to the Sakhalin project.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Potential for Violence

Increasing opposition to the government in Trinidad--an important aid donor to less developed islands and a pro-Western parliamentary democracy--is jeopardizing the oil-rich nation's prospects of playing a leadership role in the eastern Caribbean.

The ruling party is adopting a siege mentality in the face of mounting attacks on official corruption, signs of labor unrest, a troubled economy, and a surge of secessionist sentiment on Tobago.

Opposition politicians are for the first time advocating violence. They are urging some 2,000 supporters to occupy a public housing site and to destroy it if police attempt to dislodge them. Critics charge that corrupt politicians in the black ruling party are allocating housing units to their supporters and discriminating against East Indians.

The large oilfield workers' union is planning to stage a massive walkout if companies begin to lay off personnel because of production cuts. The 20,000-member union could shut down the industry, which is the mainstay of the economy.

In addition, the opposition party that dominates the representative assembly on the small island of Tobago warns that union with Trinidad will be dissolved if the government does not permit greater self-rule. The government's recent submission of an amendment to parliament limiting Tobago's autonomy provoked a bitter reaction against "highhanded" treatment.

Comment: Prime Minister Chambers has been under intense pressures since his election last November to make reforms in the corruption-ridden system he inherited. Continuing failure to meet popular expectations--aggravated by an economic downturn in the islands--could further undermine the government's credibility and fan discontent.

Secession threats by Tobago are unlikely to be carried out in the near term. Any overreaction by the government to the increased attacks by the opposition, however, could ignite latent racial animosities and lead to civil disturbances.

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CHINA-JAPAN: Rejection of Tokyo's Offer

A Chinese radiobroadcast to Japan on Saturday reported that Vice Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian had officially rejected Japan's attempt of last week to resolve the dispute over the treatment of World War II in its history textbooks. China reportedly demanded prompt steps on this "principled" issue from the Japanese to revise the current texts but continued to refrain from directly criticizing Prime Minister Suzuki or threatening to alter the Sino-Japanese relationship. According to the press, Japanese officials will meet today to determine their next step in this issue, which involves one of the terms behind Sino-Japanese normalization. [REDACTED]

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Comment: With officials assembling in Beijing for the 12th Party Congress next week, the Chinese leadership almost certainly is under close scrutiny in its handling of this emotional issue. The Chinese may also be following a tough line to compensate for any perception that they have compromised with the US on the Taiwan arms sales question. Nevertheless, Beijing's apparent restraint from threatening retaliation and its desire to settle the affair before Suzuki's scheduled visit next month suggest that the Chinese will look for a further Japanese offer of compromise soon. The solution Tokyo proposed last week, however, came only after difficult negotiations between the Japanese Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, as well as within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and further concessions will not be easy. [REDACTED]

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ARAB STATES: Foreign Ministers' Conference

The Arab League's Foreign Ministers' conference opened in Morocco on Saturday with representatives of all of the Arab League's 21 active members present except Libya and Mauritania. An Egyptian representative met with Moroccan King Hassan but reportedly left before the conference began. The conference, which is to conclude today, plans to set an agenda for the Arab League Summit scheduled for next Monday. [REDACTED]

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NICARAGUA-USSR: Interior Minister To Visit Moscow

Nicaragua has announced that Interior Minister Borge will soon visit the USSR and Bulgaria. The Soviet invitation reportedly was extended in the names of Party Secretary Andropov, Interior Minister Shchelokov, and KGB Chairman Fedorchuk. Borge last visited Moscow in March 1980 as part of a high-level delegation. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Borge probably will try to obtain increased KGB assistance to deal with mounting internal security problems. Although former KGB Chairman Andropov routinely meets important delegations in his new party capacity, the extension of the invitation under his name may indicate he still retains some responsibility for security affairs. [REDACTED]

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IRAQ-CUBA: Competition for Nonaligned Meeting

Iraq and Cuba are competing to host a ministerial meeting that is to ratify Baghdad's proposal that India host the impending Nonaligned Summit and Iraq host the next one in 1985. Baghdad hopes to make some use of its \$1 billion investment in summit preparations. Cuba, the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, argues that Baghdad is not a safe place to meet. Nonaligned moderates have a majority and support Baghdad. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The moderates appreciate Iraq's decision to withdraw voluntarily as host of the summit, and they want to weaken Cuba's prestige. Many are reluctant to go to Baghdad, however, and probably prefer that the ministerial meeting take place at UN Headquarters in New York. Iraq has hinted it will not oppose New York, and Cuba recently has shown flexibility on this issue. [REDACTED]

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